

CLAIMS

1. Process of ex-situ oxidizing passivation of a catalyst for hydroconversion of hydrocarbons in which said presulfurized catalyst at a temperature exceeding 50°C is subjected to treatment by a gas containing molecular oxygen and in which the oxygen partial pressure in the gas is at least 2 kPa.
2. Process according to claim 1, wherein the oxygen partial pressure in said gas is at least 7 kPa.
3. Process according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the oxygen partial pressure in said gas is at most 21.3 kPa.
4. Process according to one of the preceding claims, wherein said gas is dry.
5. Process according to one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said gas is wet.
6. Process according to claim 5, wherein the water partial pressure is at least 2 kPa.
7. Process according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the temperature of treatment by said gas is between 75 and 120°C.
8. Process according to one of the preceding claims implemented in two stages, the first with an oxygen partial pressure of greater than or equal to 2 kPa, the second stage with an oxygen partial pressure of greater than that of the first stage, said second stage beginning with the disappearance of the exothermal effect.
9. Process according to one of the preceding claims applied to hydrotreating catalysts.
10. Process according to one of the preceding claims applied to hydrogenation catalysts.
11. Process according to one of the preceding claims implemented within the framework of

• a process taking place in a fixed bed.

12. Process according to one of the preceding claims implemented within the framework of a process taking place with a fluidized bed.